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1724-

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: Perlich *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/996,135

Filed: November 28, 2001

For: Method, Apparatus and Compositions For
Controlling Organisms In Ballast Water

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Group Art Unit: 1724

Examiner: Betsey Hoey

FIRST RESPONSE WITH AMENDMENTS

Commissioner for Patents
Box Amendments
Washington, D.C. 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the outstanding nonfinal Office Action (Paper No. 6) of October 3, 2003, Applicants submit the following response with claim amendments and remarks.

It is not believed that any additional extensions of time are required, since the last day for taking action fell on Saturday January 3, 2004, and the filing of this amendment and remarks is taking place on the next succeeding business day as allowed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.7. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 024300.

AMENDMENT

In response to the outstanding non-final Office as follows:

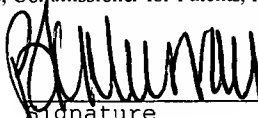
Amendments to claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 7.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: Non-Fee Amendments, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22312-1450,

on

1/5/2004


Signature